Museum and Cultural Advisory Board - Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the Mesa Arts Center, One East Main Street, third floor, south Studios conference room, on January 13, 2010.

Members Present: Members Absent: Staff Present:

Douglas Brimhall Dr. Robbi Venditti Dr. D. Kent Layton Rob Schultz
Amanda Buscas Kit Filbey Lars Nielson, Jr. Sunnee Spencer
Peter Cook Victor Linoff Tom Wilson
Vincent DiBella Rebecca Nolan Jean Kaminski

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Douglas Brimhall, Chair, called for any corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes of October 14. There being none, the Board Members present unanimously voted to approve the minutes of October 14. They have been posted on the City's Web page.

Public Comments: There was no public present; however, Vic Linoff took this opportunity to announce that he has had to resign from the Board, as he is running for the Council seat in District 4. He officially resigned with a letter to the Mayor, but attended this final meeting with the Board to say farewell and announce his resignation.

Present Information and Discuss – Consider Changing Meeting Time to 4:00 rather than 3:30 p.m. to Bring on Another New Board Member – Doug Brimhall.

Doug Brimhall, Chair, explained that we are still short one Board member (there are 11 members assigned to the Board), and now with Vic Linoff's resignation, the Board will be short two members. There is a teacher who expressed interest in being on the Board; however, she is unable to make a 3:30 meeting and asked if the Board would consider changing the time to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Brimhall said he would try his best to keep the meetings to an hour so they would still conclude at 5:00 p.m. Each Board member present stated they have no problem moving the meeting to 4:00 p.m.; however, one member stated that she would have to leave shortly after 5:00 if the meetings run over an hour. It was decided to change the meeting time to begin at 4:00 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month.

Present Information and Discuss – Board Meeting Attendance – Doug Brimhall

Doug Brimhall, Chair, asked for a commitment from Board members to mark their calendars for the year; plan to attend the scheduled meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m; and RSVP to Jean Kaminski, at 480-644-6607 or jean.kaminski@mesaartscenter.com as to their attendance, no later than the Monday prior to the meeting date.

Present Information and Discuss – "Creative Economy AZ – AZ Needs Arts and Culture" – Kit Filbey
Some Board members have attended the meetings explaining the initiative to introduce a 1/10th of a percent (%) sales tax on
the 2010 ballot. Ms. Filbey encouraged those who have not heard about the initiative to go to www.creativeeconomyaz.com
to learn about it and asked that the Board sign up as a supporter on their Website. Right now, the goal is to get the arts
community informed about the initiative and to find speakers who would go out into the communities and inform the general
public. She distributed information regarding the initiative and explained that for a family of four, a 1/10th of a % sales tax
would mean approximately \$20 per year. Even in this economy, it is imperative that people step up and realize the economic
impact arts and culture plays in a thriving community. In a recent Forbes survey of 1,000 executives, vibrant cultural
opportunities were viewed as important by 74% of the respondents; however, only 26% of those respondents ranked Arizona
as having a strong arts and culture community. Compared to eight other regions with which Arizona generally competes for
highly skilled and educated individuals, Arizona was rated dead last. Of concern is the comparatively low ranking given to the
region by young professionals working here in sought-after fields. This is the mobile talent pool that views San Diego,
Seattle, and Austin as more vibrant and appealing to live, work, and build a life in.

Deep state and local budget cuts to arts commission, institutions, universities, and public schools have severely disabled many arts and culture organizations to serve the public. However, studies have shown that involvement in the arts helps children do better in school. According to data from the National Center for Charitable Statistics, the Valley's arts and culture organizations must cope with substantially smaller revenues than other cities. Without our help, and without significant changes, arts and culture organizations will become victim to the unbridgeable gap.

Investing in a strong creative economy is the solution and has proved to be transformational. Competitor cities such as Austin, Salt Lake City, and Denver have dramatically diversified their economies and regions by making the commitment to invest in arts and culture. Today's workforce wants access to arts and culture amenities and opportunities. The creative community is an economic driver helping to attract and retain workers.

A broad-based public investment will have a highly effective impact on our state's economic diversification efforts and help to achieve creative sustainability, attract the best and brightest knowledge workers and businesses, alleviate recruitment and relocation costs, and provide increased informal education opportunities for our communities.

Identify Items for Future Agendas – Doug Brimhall

Doug Brimhall, Chair, suggested several items that he would like the Board to think about prior to the February meeting, and come prepared to discuss them at the meeting. Included for discussion is: Review the Board Duties and Responsibilities; who are we as a group; what can we do as a group to keep the Grants Programs in the minds of Councilmembers and the Mayor; who are our Affiliates (Jean Kaminski is to provide a list at the February meeting); how we as a group can advocate for our Affiliate organizations; when and where are the Council meetings; and what is the Budget process and when do those meetings occur (Rob Schultz will provide that information at the February meeting).

Note: Council Agendas can be found on the City of Mesa Website at www.mesaaz.gov, click on "City Hall" tab then click on "Council Agendas" under "Related Links" to the right of the page. Click on the PDF icon to the right of the agenda to view the printed copy for that specific date. Study Sessions are listed as "Study Session," Council meetings are listed as "Regular."

Staff Reports

Arizona Museum for Youth - Sunnee Spencer

- Sandy Johnson, Americorps Volunteer Capacity Builder, has garnered 440 volunteer hours this December, which represents approximately \$9,000 in the Gallery Educator budget compared to approximately 72 hours last year. She also coordinated for the Disney Volunteer Program where volunteers donate eight hours of service and receive reduced or waived admission to Disneyland.
- The Education team has created "ArtZone to Go," which is a kit with art activities and supplies and consists of four types: watercolor, sculpture, collage, and finger-painting. The first round of kits has been sold, and staff is working to create more. They are available for purchase on the Museums Website as well.
- The Membership team created a 20 percent (%) off membership sale from December 22 to January 8. The Museum received \$4,000 in revenue from the sale. This brought the Museum's membership total to 750.
- Last week, the Museum hosted The Arizona Commission for the Arts Board, the Arizona Citizen Action Board, and the Department of Education. A researcher from New Jersey presented information to the Boards regarding factual research being conducted on K-12 though-out the state on what is being taught in the classroom. When the research is completed, the information will be an asset for the Museum.
- Sunnee Spencer made a presentation, sharing what is happening at AMY, to the West Mesa Rotary Club.
- The Museum has been working with Age Works to obtain volunteers.
- During the renovation construction at the Museum, the construction crew ran into a problem with a wall and had to bring in a special piece of equipment to complete the job and build-out of a structural wall. This created an increase in the budget, which had to go back to Council for approval (approved at last Monday, January 11, Council meeting) before construction could resume. The original budget was approved for an amount that was greater than the project bids came in at, so the money was there and didn't increase the original approved amount, but was more than the approved bid amount. With the additions to the project, this brought the total cost of construction from Cultural Impact Fees to \$156,739. Construction resumes next week. It is hoped that the project will be completed around the first of April. Grand Opening VIP invitations will be going out.
- The Museum is excited to be collaborating with the Mesa Historical Museum to bring "Play Ball" to Arizona Museum for Youth (AMY) in February. Ms. Spencer reviewed a presentation that Lisa Anderson gave to the Historical Museum Board along with the Mayor, City Manager, and Kari Kent, Deputy City Manager who is also Acting Arts and Cultural Director.

Highlights from Presentation: See Exhibit A

The exhibition originally opened at the Mesa Historical Museum on January 10, 2009. To-date, they have seen approximately 20,000 visitors. The exhibit features Cactus League History and is approximately 1,000 sq. ft. The Project Managers for the exhibit include: Lisa Anderson, Museum Resource Developer and Director of the Mesa Historical Society; Exhibition Design Team (AMY staff); and Community members, i.e., Robert Brinton, President of the Cactus League, Robert Johnson with High Ground; Vic Linoff, Chairman of the Mesa Historical Society; Rodney Johnson with SABRE; Steve Cobb, Arizona Fall League; Chris Fiscus of Moses Anshell; Mesa CVB staff; Geoffrey Gonsher, and Mesa Historical Museum staff.

The vision for the exhibit at AMY is: introduce new objects, additional Cactus League history; enlarge exhibition space to 1,400 sq. ft.; anticipated audience at AMY is estimated at 50,000 plus; include baseball art; introduce new interactives; and for the first time in Mesa, introduce a cell phone tour.

Some interactives will come with the exhibition and some additions will be Wii stations, baseball player dress-up, puzzles, book nook, discovery doors, etc.

The presentation included a schematic of the exhibition design – see Exhibit A.

Lisa Anderson traveled to Chicago with Mesa CVB in December to secure partnerships. CVB also donated some exhibition materials such as Wii and TV stations in the Museum.

Also mentioned were the targeted demographic, general marketing initiatives, marketing components and tentative timeline, and marketing opportunities.

Major Sponsors to Date: City of Mesa gave close to \$100,000; Arizona Humanities Council gave \$7,700; SRP gave \$5,000; Wells Fargo gave \$5,000; Mesa CVB gave \$5,000. Pending pledges include: another \$5,000 from CVB; Marketing support; SCF Arizona, \$5,000; Mesa Historical Museum \$5,000 in In-Kind support, and Arizona Tourism Alliance.

The future for "Play Ball" includes the possibility of showing again at AMY. It is being built in a modular form so it easily transportable for outreach programs throughout the Valley.

The VIP opening for "Play Ball" will be Thursday, February 25, and open to the public on Friday, February 26. VIP invitations will be going out soon.

Doug Brimhall, Chair, asked if there would be a catalogue and/or book for the traveling exhibition. Vic Linoff responded that there is a book out already on the history of professional baseball in Arizona, but down the road, it is possible that a catalogue and/or book would evolve from the exhibition.

Vince DiBella, who is a Hohokam, asked if the organization had been contacted regarding support. Ms. Spencer said she would pass their name along to Lisa Anderson to look in to contacting them.

- Ms. Spencer reported that AMY's spring fundraiser has been moved to May 1 to coincide with the opening of the new exhibition "Sounds like Art."
- The Museum saw an increase of 150 plus visitors over the holiday break compared to last year at that time.
- AMY will host a reception on Friday, January 15, 5 6 p.m. titled "You Are the Artist: Artworks from the Spirit of the Studio." *Spirit of the Studio* is an exhibition series featuring collaboration between Mesa Public Schools and an area artist in the Teaching Artist Roster for the Arizona Commission for the Arts. "You Are the Artist" exhibition features Fremont Junior High Arts Students taught by Beth Isaacs and artist Bruce Stam.

<u>Arizona Museum of Natural History – Dr. Tom Wilson</u>

- Staff has been working on completing the Mesa Grande project the Hohokam Temple Mound Site that the Museum cares for. Staff has just completed the trail around the site and did the final walk-through this morning. This completes the first phase of the trail. The next phase will be to put the interpretative element into the trail, which will be done immediately. Following would be to put in shade and some erosion control structures. If there is money left, a small interpretative center would be constructed as well. There will be an open house to kick off the trail on March 27. The trail is made from decomposed granite, which was selected to fit with the ambiance of the prehistoric site. This also allows minimal impact on the site to maximize the visitor experience. Mesa Grande is partially funded by the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund, which gave the Museum a \$100,000 grant. The Museum received the grant to do the interpretive trail approximately a year ago and then in February 2009 the funds were swept by the legislature. The State Parks Board reversed that decision and the money was reinstated in October 2009. The Museum began working immediately on the trail, as that the money could be swept again, which is a strong possibility. But in the meantime, work continues on the trail. Dr. Wilson stated that they also have other monies to help with the project, but hope that the legislature will not sweep any more money from the grant.
- The City has purchased land on the north end of the City cemetery and asked Arizona Museum of Natural History (AzMNH) to do the archeology there. The survey of the site proved there may be things there. Trenching began today.
- Invitations will go out for the Museums "Arizona Adventure" event on March 6. There will be live entertainment, food, beverage, and activities at the Museum.
- Staff is working on the orientation theater in the Museum that will include a series of photographs that will start with the beginning of the universe, approximately 13 14 billion years ago and take you through to 100,000 years ago followed by the origins and development of the earth over this time period. The photographs will serve as an introduction to the phase that is in the natural history portion of the Museum (the two levels going down the stairs).

Doug Brimhall asked about parking at the Mesa Grande site. Dr. Wilson said it is an issue. The Museum has not dealt with that through this phase, but will in parallel with the next phase. There is some space on site, but the Museum wants to minimize parking on the site. There is some street parking and they will work with other lots in the neighborhood to explore possibilities.

Peter Cook asked that once the dust settles would the Museum be able to keep Mesa Grande open. Dr. Wilson said that volunteers will be used for now to keep the site open. Visitation will be monitored to see what the numbers are like and if it would warrant putting hired staff there. Dr. Wilson stated that they will experiment and monitor which days the site would be open for viewing and evaluate the data before determining a permanent schedule.

It was mentioned that the Heritage Fund budget is in tremendous jeopardy and should be treated apart from the normal State Parks budget. If anyone is interested in attending, supporting the Heritage Fund, and providing input, the Parks Board is meeting at the Phoenix Zoo, Stonehouse Pavilion, this coming Friday, January 15, at 10 a.m.

Mesa Arts Center/Mesa Contemporary Arts – Rob Schultz

- The Glass Studio expansion continues; expect to be done within the next two weeks in time for the beginning of spring classes. The purpose for the expansion is to accommodate the need for larger classes in the Studio, which provides more revenue for MAC. Also creates a larger outdoor space to handle the glass blowing tools and provides a safer environment for teachers and students. The covering will make it easier to work with hot glass in the summer months as well.
- The Holiday Art and Music Festival in December saw a decrease in attendance due to the morning cold and rainy weather that weekend. Although vendors and artists were extremely complimentary about the event our volunteers stand out from similar events, especially in the areas of helping the artist unload and set up.
- The MAC Website project is complete. The new look is easier for the public to use, and staff has been trained to make changes on the new site where that was not possible with the older site.
- MAC re-introduced Summer Arts Camp this summer, which was successful. Staff also created a Winter Break Camp during the student holiday break and again, successful; looking to do it for Spring Break and again during the summer.
- Mesa Contemporary Arts (MCA) will open their 31st Annual Contemporary Crafts exhibition on Friday, January 22.
 Always a favorite with a diversity of craft mediums.
- Stageworks opens their second play of the season, "Captain Louie" on Thursday, January 28, in the Piper Theater (550 seats) this time rather than the usual Nesbitt/Elliott Theater (200 seats); trying to attract a larger audience.

Acting Director's Report – Rob Schultz for Kari Kent

- National Geographic Live returns in January with paleontologist Paul Sereno "Hunting Dinosaurs." The performance will include a collaboration with the AzMNH that will supplement the performance with additional activities.
- Also coming in January are The Nat King Cole story and Itzhak Perlman, who has sold out.
- For the first time in Mesa, the Martin Luther King celebration will continue with a festival here at MAC on the Shadow Walk that will run from noon 5 p.m. The festival is free to the public.
- Light Rail Committee is discussing where there will be stops in downtown Mesa. So far they are recommending a stop just east of Country Club with continued discussion on the stop that was originally planned in front of MAC. Now looking at other possibilities right outside MAC right outside the buildings that are adjacent to MAC or just west of Center Street. The Committee asked Transportation staff to prepare a comprehensive analysis on how each of the locations would impact businesses, how many feet of roadway would it require, what type of curb cuts would be required, what trees would be affected, how it would affect the MAC marquee, etc. Transportation will report next month to the Committee so they can make a comprehensive recommendation to Council the following month City Council makes the final decision on the locations. The Light Rail Committee meets monthly first Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m., at the annex of the Methodist Church. Public is welcome to attend.

Kari Kent was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. Doug Brimhall, Chair, shared a statement Kari sent him regarding the recruitment for the new Director, which he read. . . . "I wanted to provide you with an update on where we are with the Arts and Culture Director Recruitment process. Arts Consulting Group (ACG) has been hired to assist the City with the Arts and Culture Director Executive Search Process. ACG was on-site in November and met with City Councilmembers, as well as representatives from our Foundations, Advisory Boards, Affiliates, and senior staff to get feedback on the qualities the community is looking for in our next Director. From there, ACG developed a job announcement and the position was posted on December 9. To date, ACG has received more than 150 applications. ACG will be meeting with me (Kari Kent) and Chris Brady on Thursday (January 14) to discuss potential candidates and determine if we are ready to move forward with the interview process."

Doug Brimhall, Chair, asked if Jean Kaminski could send the Board members information on what is happening in downtown Mesa. Jean Kaminski stated that she would ask to have the Board members included in Downtown Mesa Association's (DMA)

weekly e-blast. He also asked for some information regarding Mesa Historical Museum in terms of where they are at this time. Rob Schultz said that he would invite Lisa Anderson to attend the February meeting and/or provide the Board with a basic overview himself.

Report on Conferences and/or Meetings/Performances Attended: Board Members – Information Only

Peter Cook reported that he and his wife had a wild experience at the Guy Fiery performance in the Ikeda Theater. They paid the extra dollars and sat on stage and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. He found the experience to be an interesting use of the space.

Amanda Buscas reminded the Board members of the Arts Congress coming up February 1 on the capitol lawn. The Arizona Commission on the Arts budget has been decreased by 50% this fiscal year and has affected grantees like AMY and MAC. Please take the time to sign up and attend. Information on the event can be found on the Arizona Citizens for the Arts Website. The format will be somewhat different this year. In the past, everyone would meet under a tent and the legislators would come and speak to participants about the arts. This year, people will gather under the tent and teams will be assembled to go in and meet with their representatives; it is important to have representation from Mesa.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5: p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karolyn Kent, Acting Director Arts and Cultural Department

Exhibit A





Exhibition Highlights:

- Additional Cactus League

Exhibition space is 1,400

· Anticipated Audience is

Includes Baseball Art

 New Interactives New Cell Phone Tour

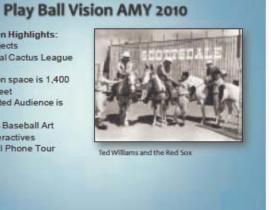
· New Objects

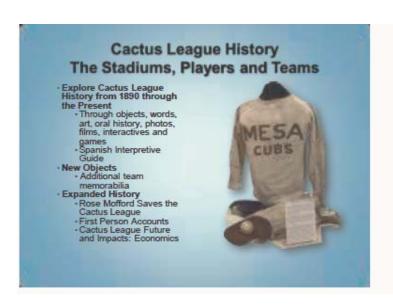
square feet

History

50.000+

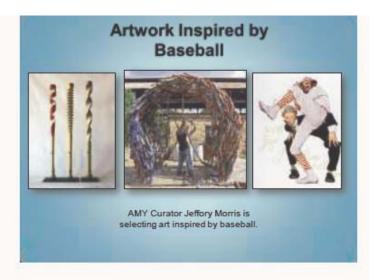














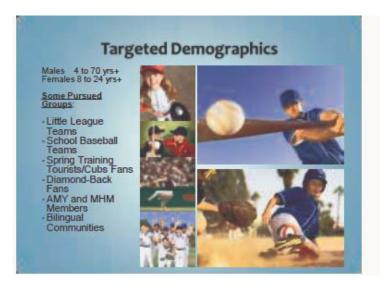


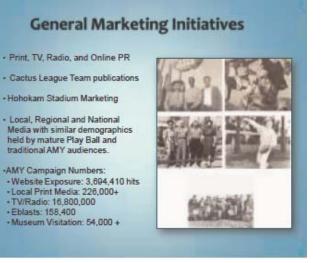












Marketing Components & Tentative Timeline

NATIONAL (Nov – Feb 2010) Print Media • Key Magazine – Hotel Tourism • US Airways Publication

TV / RADIO

Nick Jr.
 Fox Sports.

REGIONAL (Jan 2010)

- Print Media
 Gateway Airport anniversary event
- Cubs Convention/Chicago MLB Pocket Schedule

- Vineline-Cubs
 Cubs online-SB Nation, Cubscast.com,
 Cubs Examiner, etc.

 ONLINE (present—on
 PlayBallExperience.co
 ArtzonaMuseumforYou

TV / RADIO

LOCAL (Jan - Feb 2010)

- Print Media

 Raising AZ Kids Magazine, AZ Parenting
- AZ Republic, The Independent, Tribune
 Spring Training Publications, Trading Card Glyeaway, Rack Card, Flyers, CVB, *AOT

TV / RADIO . KTAR RADIO

- . PBS KIDS, Channel 3 & CW Network, & all other major TV Stations
- · Channel 11

- PlayBallExperience.com
- ArtzonaMuseumforYouth.com, MesaAZ.gov
- azcentral.com & azfamily.com
 E-card Blasts (AMY, MHM, & Citywide
- database & Ch 3 TV- tentative)

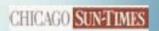
 Standard Social Networking Stations

CHICAGO MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chicago Tribune
- -SB Nation
- -Cubscast.com
- Chicago Cubs Examiner
- -Media Planet
- ·Various Freelance Writers
- North Shore Magazine









Major Sponsors to Date Phase II Ariz na Humanities - City of Mesa - \$97,100 mesa-az Council Arizona Humanities Council - \$7,700 SRP - \$5,000 Wells Fargo - \$5,000 Mesa CVB -\$5,000-exhibit support Pledges Pending - Mesa CVB- \$5,000 Marketing support • SCF Arizona - \$5,000 • MHM -\$5,000 In Kind MESA Support Arizona Tourism Alliance

Selected In-kind Sponsors

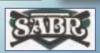
- Bison Interactives
- · Off Madison Ave
- · High Ground Inc.
- Mesa CVB
- · SRP
- Boys of Summer
- · SABRE
- Arizona Cactus League
- · Arizona Fall League











Future of Play Ball Exhibit

- Phase III Feb 2011 and IV 2012 at AMY or TBD
- Outreach Programs
- Satellite Locations Phase II and Beyond
 - Libraries
 - Mesa CVB
 - Hohokam Stadium
 - Gateway Airport
- Traveling Exhibition Phase III and Beyond • MLB Cactus League
 - -Permanent Museum Site

